

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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R 212319Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, YE, SA

SUBJ: PANAM ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN AIRLINES

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

REF: SANAA 1859, SANAA 1832 (NOTAL)

1. PAN AM REGRETS DELAY IN FIELDING TEAM, CAUSED BY REORGANIZATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS, NOW HEADED BY ERSKINE RICE, NEW CORPORATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AIRLINE DEVELOPMENT. RICE STATES PAN AM COMMITTED TO DO SURVEY AND PREPARED TO SEND 2-3 MAN TEAM, HEADED BY T.J. TOWNSEND, STAFF VP, WHO HAS 25 YEARS OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH PAN AM. SECOND MAN IN TEAM WOULD BE EXPERT IN ROUTE PLANNING AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.

2. TOWNSEND NOW BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS AND AVAILABLE, BUT ONLY IF HE DEPARTS FOR SANAA WEEK OCTOBER 1. SINCE
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ECONOMICS MINISTER AL-ASNAG LIKELY BE IN NEW YORK THAT

WEEK, PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER ASNAG INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH RICE, TOWNSEND AND OTHER PAN AM OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO TOWNSEND DEPARTURE FOR SANAA. ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS WHETHER TEAM VISIT MIGHT NOT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE AFTER END OF RAMADHAN.

3. PAN AM WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY PASSING ITS REGRETS TO YEMEN AIRLINES FOR INVITATION ATTEND OPENING SANAA AIRPORT SEPT. 26. INVITATION ARRIVED TOO LATE (SEPT. 20) FOR PAN AM MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ATTENDANCE OF SUITABLE N.Y. OFFICIAL.

4. INTERCONTINENTAL'S VP REYNOLD BURGUND STATES HIS COMPANY STILL VERY INTERESTED IN YAR'S TOURISM POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLE HOTEL CONSTRUCTION. HE HAS CONTACTED FNCB RE CONSTRUCTION FINANCING AND BELIEVES THIS SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM. AFTER LOOKING AT HALF-COMPLETED SABA HOTEL, BURGUND CONCLUDED THIS COULD NOT BE TURNED INTO HOTEL OF IC STANDARDS. IC VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST BALAS WILL SO INFORM PLANNING DIRECTOR IRYANI IN RESPONSE HIS QUERY. BURGUND SAYS NEXT STEP IS \$60,000 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF CONSTRUCTING HOTEL IN SANAA, BUT IC CANNOT COVER COST OF STUDY. BURGUND SUGGESTS YARG FINANCE STUDY OR CONTACT YEMENI PRIVATE INVESTORS OR OTHER SOURCES RE FINANCING. HE BELIEVES STUDY SHOULD BE EASY PROJECT FOR FINANCING BY DONORS TO YEMEN SUCH AS ABU DHABI, SAUDI ARABIA, OR KUWAIT.

5. FOR KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI: BURGUND WILL BE TRAVELLING IN PENINSULA IN EARLY OCTOBER. HE LIKELY TO BE IN ABU DHABI OCT. 12-14 AND KUWAIT OCT. 15-6. WE WILL CABLE CONFIRMATION DATES WHEN AVAILABLE. SUGGEST EMBASSIES MAY WISH PUT HIM IN CONTACT ABU DHABI AND KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS RE POSSIBILITIES THEIR FINANCING FEASIBILITY STUDY.

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